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A communication interface part 12 has a function for retrieving various music piece data and data associated therewith from a server 40 on a network such as Internet or the like through a communication line such as ISDN, ordinary telephone line, or the like. A disc input part 13 has a function for reading data such as music pieces or the like recorded on a music piece disc 50 such as CD, MD, or the like and storing it into the apparatus.

A keyboard 14 and a display 15 are portions for displaying data and entering an operating instruction when a data inputting process is executed or the reproducing order data of the music pieces is formed.

A memory part 16 is constituted mainly by an ROM and an RAM. A main program for controlling the operation of the apparatus has been previously stored in the ROM. Various process values and the like in the step of the operating process of the apparatus are stored in the RAM.

The music piece data obtained through the communication I/F unit 12 and disc input unit 13 and the management data comprising addresses indicative of storing positions of the music piece data and the data associated with the music piece data have been stored onto a hard disk 17.

A transfer media recording part 18 is a circuit for performing recording of data into the memory 30 as a portable data transfer media when the reproducing order data for designating the order of reproduction of the music

pieces is generated by the control part 11 based on the management data or in the case where new music piece data has additionally been obtained through the communication I/F unit 12 and disc input unit 13.

Subsequently, the structure of the in-vehicle audio information reproducing apparatus 20 will be described with reference to a structural diagram shown in Fig. 3.

In the diagram, a control part 21 is constituted mainly by a microcomputer and has a function for controlling the operation of the whole apparatus.

A memory unit 22 is constructed mainly by a ROM and a RAM. A main program for controlling the operation of the apparatus has been stored in the ROM. Various process values and the like in the step of the operating process of the apparatus are stored in the RAM.

An operation input unit 23 is constituted by a ten-key and various function keys arranged on a console panel of the apparatus 20 and used in the case where the user enters an operating instruction and various data. A display 24 is also mounted on the console panel of the apparatus, and comprises, for example, a display device such as LCD, organic EL, or the like. The display functions to display an operating mode of the apparatus and the information such as the order of reproduction of the music piece data or the like stored in the apparatus.

The music piece data and the management data associated therewith which have been copied from the music

piece data managing apparatus 10 and are to be reproduced by the apparatus 20 are stored on a hard disk 25.

A transfer media reading part 26 has a function for reading the management data and music piece data recorded in the data transfer media, i. e. the memory 30, from this media when the memory 30 is loaded into the apparatus.

An audio output interface unit 27 is an audio output circuit constituted mainly by a digital signal processor, a D/A converter, an analog amplifying circuit, and the like. The music piece data stored on the hard disk 25 is converted into an analog signal by this circuit based on a reproducing instruction from the control part 21 and, thereafter, generated as an audio signal through speakers 28.

The memory 30 is the portable data transfer media as mentioned above and comprises, for example, a memory device such as a non-volatile RAM such that data can be recorded and retrieved anytime, and recorded contents will not be extinguished even if a power supply of a main part of the memory is turned off.

The operation of the whole system comprising the music piece data managing apparatus 10, in-vehicle audio information reproducing apparatus 20, and memory 30 as a data transfer media shown in Figs. 1 to 3 will now be described below.

First, the music piece data managing apparatus 10 obtains various music piece data and data associated